(b) if so, what are the reasons for , closure of the old workshop and whether Government are contemplating to utilize the existing building and machi. neries?

THE MINISTER OP RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Railways on account of ope. rational necessities, and for increasing efficiency and bringing about economy, have decided to replace steam locomotives by the year 2000 A number of steam staff has been retained at the same place of work as they were engaged in other activities which would continue to remain at the station. The maintenance staff rendered surplus are being redeployed at the same or nearby locations after re-training. Railway as a policy do not retrench any staff. The steps have been taken in consultation with the recognised unions. Any useful material, machinery and plant etc. which is no longer required at their present location would be shifted to alternative areas in the national interest.

Conversion of Manmad-Aurangabacl Railway line from M.G. to B,G,

149. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) what is the present position with regard to the conversion from metre gauge to broad gauge railway line in Manmad-Aurangabad sector;

(b) by when the project was originally scheduled to be completed and by when it is expected to be completed; and

(c) what are the reasons for delay in the completion of the project and what steps are contemplated by Gov ernment to accelerate the process of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Physical progress of 69 per cent has been achieved as on 15-11-1990,

(b) and (c) The Manmad-Aurangabad project was originally scheduled for completion by 31-12-1991. Efforts are being made to advance the date of completion by 6 months.

Short supplies of consumer goods at Fair Price Shops

150. SHRi ANANT DAVE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Wheat, Rice, Sugar and Pal-molein Cooking Oils are in short supply and are mostly not available at Fair Price Shops in the various parts of the country; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to make these items available freely at the Fair Price Shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SARWAR HUSSAIN); (a) and (b) No reports of such shortages of rice, wheat and sugar have been received from State Govts./ UT Administrations. There are ade-quate stocks of rice, wheat and sugar in the Central Pool. There is, however, shortage of palmolein, currently, due to lack of import. Government is however, considering measures to remedy the situation. PDS allocations, nevertheless, are supplemental in nature and are not intended to meet the entire requiremnt of States/ UTs.

Conversion of Ernakulam-Kottayam Trivandrum railway line

151. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will th< Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased state;

(a) whether there is any proposa under Government's consideration convert Ernakulam-Kottayam-Trivan drum railway line as a double line and

(b) if so by when the project ! f likely to be completed; if not, the ref) (son_s therefor?